

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMCONSUL PERTH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0634

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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SUBJ: AMBASSADOR GREEN'S VISIT TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR GREEN MADE HIS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO WA SEPTEMBER 19-25, ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. GREEN. SCHEDULE INCLUDED: 3 DAYS IN PERTH TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH OFFICIALDOM, PRESS, CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, INVOLVING 5 SPEECHES AND SEVERAL TV INTERVIEWS; 2 DAYS AT USN COMMUNICATIONS STATION, EXMOUTH; 1 DAY AT CLIFFS WESTERN AUSTRALIAN IRON MINING AT ROBE RIVER IN NORTHWEST. AMBASSADOR'S IMPACT ON PERSONS HE MET DIRECTLY AND ON THOSE WHO LEARNED ABOUT HIM THROUGH NEWS MEDIA WAS VERY FAVORABLE. MOREOVER WE BELIEVE AMBASSADOR RECEIVED GOOD IMPRESSION OF STRONG AND PRIDEFUL LOCALISM OF WA AND OF THIS VAST STATE'S GREAT ECONOMIC POTENTIAL. END SUMMARY.

2. SEPTEMBER 19: AMBASSADOR'S MIDDAY ARRIVAL WAS COVERED BY BOTH INDEPENDENT TV STATIONS AND BOTH DAILIES. AFTERNOON WAS SPENT WITH WA ACADEMICS DISCUSSING US FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEVELOPMENTS IN PAST FEW MONTHS RELATING PRINCIPALLY TO CHINA, VIETNAM AND JAPAN, AS WELL AS US RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA. MAJORITY OPINION OF UNIVERSITY REPS WAS THAT AUSTRALIANS' INTEREST IN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, ESPECIALLY CONCERNING UNCLASSIFIED

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JAPAN, IS SHOWING SOME INCREASE. AMBASSADOR IMPRESSED

BY AMERICAN PROF. BERNARD KEY, HEAD OF UNI'S JAPANESE STUDIES DEPARTMENT.

3. SEPTEMBER 20: MAJOR EVENT WAS CALL ON PREMIER WHO SIGNIFICANTLY LED OFF BY RECALLING HIS ASSOCIATION WITH CURTIN LABOR GOVERNMENT IN WORLD WAR II WHEN IT WAS OVERJOYED TO GET US MILITARY PROTECTION, AND BY ASSURING AMBASSADOR OF WESTERN AUSTRALIANS' CONTINUING GRATITUDE (DESPITE SOME INDICATIONS TO THE CONTRARY ABOUT NINE MONTHS AGO). PREMIER ALSO DESCRIBED IMBLAANCED POSITION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA WITHIN COMMONWEALTH (I.E., 12 PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION OF AUSTRALIA BUT PRODUCING AS MUCH AS 20 PERCENT OF TOTAL EXPORTS BY VALUE), WA'S NEED OF MONEY, INCLUDING FOREIGN INVESTMENT, FOR ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND HIS CONFIDENCE THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AND PRACTICES WILL INCREASINGLY SUPPORT WA INTERESTS. OTHER MAJOR EVENT WAS AMBASSADOR'S LUNCHEON MEETING WITH PRESS CORPS WHOSE VERY FAVORABLE REACTION WAS SUMMED UP BY ONE CORRESPONDENT'S QUIP "WE'RE KEEN ON GREEN". AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENTS SHOWN ON ALL THREE PRIME-TIME TV NEWSCASTS, AND COVERED BY BOTH DAILIES. LATER TDT/WA CARRIED 8-MIN. FILM INTERVIEW ON WATERGATE, AUSTRALIAN ATTITUDES TO ASIA, AND AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

4. SEPTEMBER 21: CALL ON SIR CHARLES COURT, LEADER OF OPPOSITION, WAS FIRST EVENT OF BUSY DAY. SIR CHARLES EXPRESSED BALANCED OPTIMISM THAT HE WOULD BE WA PREMIER AFTER NEXT YEAR'S STATE GENERAL ELECTION. HE ADVISED THAT US INVESTMENT SHOULD SIT TIGHT DURING INTERIM AND MAKE SURE THAT LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ITS HOLDINGS AND INTERESTS ARE FULLY SATISFIED. CITY OF PERTH RECEPTION FOR AMBASSADOR AND MRS. GREEN WAS FOLLOWED BY PREMIER'S CABINET LUNCHEON, VISIT TO WA'S AGRICULTURAL SHOW, RECEPTION BY AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, AND DINNER BY AM-CHAM CELEBRATING ITS SECOND ANNIVERSARY WHICH COINCIDED WITH AMBASSADOR'S VISIT.

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5. SEPTEMBER 22-23: AMBASSADOR GIVEN BRIEFING AND TOUR OF USN COMMUNICATIONS STATION EXMOUTH, 800 MILES NORTH OF PERTH. HE ALSO MET WITH MANY STATION PERSONNEL AND LEADERS OF FULLY INTEGRATED US-AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY WHERE PRINCIPAL AND ALMOST TOTAL REASON FOR ITS EXISTENCE IS OPERATION OF COMMUNICATIONS STATION AND WHERE FRIENDLY BI-NATIONAL COOPERATION IS EXEMPLARY. PRIOR TO DEPARTURE SEPTEMBER

24 AMBASSADOR ALSO VISITED AND WAS BRIEFED BY RAAF
BASE AT LEARMONTH, 20 MILES SOUTH OF EXMOUTH, WHICH
IS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

6. SEPTEMBER 24: INSPECTION OF ROBE RIVER IRON ORE MINING
OPERATIONS 50 MILES IN FROM COAST AND OF PELLETIZING
PLANT AT SHIPPING POINT AT CAPE LAMBERT GAVE AMBASSADOR
CLEAR PICTURE OF DRAMATIC CHANGE THAT HAS COME TO
ISOLATED PILBARA DISTRICT IN PAST FEW YEARS WITH DEVEL-
OPMENT OF IRON ORE AND OFF-SHORE PETROLEUM RESERVES.
ALSO GAVE PICTURE OF CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE BEING PLAYED
BY RESPONSIBLE AMERICAN ECONOMIC INTERESTS AND OF
POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER CONTRIBUTION TO THIS DEVELOPMENT.
AMBASSADOR AND MRS. GREEN DEPARTED NORTHWEST SEPTEMBER
25 ON DIRECT FLIGHT TO CENTRAL AND ESSTERN AUSTRALIA.

7. MEDIA INTEREST AND COVERAGE EXCELLENT AS DAILY NEWS
HEADLINE (SEPT 20) PROCLAIMED "LOW-PROFILE GREEN CHARMS
PRESS". LENGTHY INTERVIEWS GIVEN DAILY NEWS (SEPT 21)
ON CHINA AND SE ASIA AND SUNDAY TIMES (SEPT 23)
ON CANBERRA AS DIPLOMATIC PIPELINE WERR PLACED
PRIMINENTLY. LATTER ALSO PICKED UP BY AUSTRALIAN
SEPT 26. FOLLOW-UP FEATURE IN WEST AUSTRALIAN
(SEPT 27) CONTINUED FAVORABLE IMAGE AS "GLEEFUL SOWER
OF GOODWILL". AMBASSADOR COMPLIMENTED MEDIA COVERAGE AND
THOUGHTFUL QUESTIONING.

8. IN SUM, VISIT TO WA ACHIEVED OBJECTIVES OF ACQUAINTING
AMBASSADOR WITH THIS DISTANT BUT IMPORTANT STATE IN
FAR WEST OF AUSTRALIAN CONTINENT, AND OF GIVING WEST
AUSTRALIANS THE OPPORTUNITY OF GETTING TO KNOW THE NEW
US AMBASSADOR. WA PEOPLE AND OFFICIALS, WHO
REGARD THEMSELVES AS THE CINDERELLA STATE, WERE
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OBTAINING PLEASURE THAT AMBASSADOR GREEN CAME TO VISIT
THEM SO SOON AFTER STARTING HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT, AND
SHOWED A RELAXED CONFIDENCE IN HIM AS THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE NATION FOR WHICH THEY HAVE VERY HIGH AND FRIENDLY
REGARD.
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